

1. HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

1.1.1. Local Level and Archaeological Findings

There are no nationally recognised archaeological sites recorded within the EPL. However, there is a possibility that unrecorded or undiscovered archaeological features or artefacts may be discovered during the exploration phase. In the case where an archaeological discovery is made on-site during exploration works, the procedures outlined in the National Heritage Act, No. 27 of 2004 are to be followed. Section 55 (4) of the National Heritage Act, No. 27 of 2004, requires that any archaeological or paleontological object or meteorite discovered is reported to the National Heritage Council as soon as practicable.

2. IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

2.1.1. Disturbance to archaeological and heritage sites /resources

Even though there are currently no known archaeological sites in the project area, all necessary steps will be taken the moment any new sites are found. The National Heritage Act (2004) protects all archaeological remains, which means they can't be removed, disturbed, or destroyed. The Act mandates that the Heritage Council Windhoek be notified of any archaeological discoveries.

The Karas Region is sensitive and home to archaeologically and culturally significant sites, according to the specialist archaeological assessment that was done. If archaeological and/or cultural materials are discovered during exploration, the sensitive nature of the materials requires that the areas be marked out, with coordinates established to create "No-Go-Areas," and then documented. They can be safeguarded by creating buffer zones to prevent exploration activities from taking place close to these designated areas, or by fencing them off or demarcating them for preservation purposes. Therefore, this impact can be rated as low significance. Upon implementation of the necessary measures, the impact significance will be reduced to a lower rating. The impact is assessed in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Impact rating for disturbance of archaeological and heritage sites.

Mitigation Status	Extent	Duration	Intensity	Probability	Significance
Pre mitigation	M - 1	M/H - 4	M/L - 3	M/L - 2	L - 16
Post mitigation	L - 1	L/M - 1	L - 2	L - 1	L - 4

2.1.2. Mitigation measures to avoid and minimise distraction to archaeological and heritage sites.

- ❖ The Proponent and Contractors must adhere to the provisions of Section 55 of the National Heritage Act in the event significant heritage and cultural features are discovered while conducting exploration works.
- ❖ On-site workers and contractor crews must be trained to exercise and recognize chance finds heritage in the course of their work.
- ❖ During the prospecting and exploration works, it is important to take note and recognize any significant material being unearthed and make the correct judgment on which actions are to be taken.
- ❖ The footprint of the impact of the activities on site must be kept to a minimum, to limit the possibility of encountering chance finds within the EPL boundaries.
- ❖ There must be controlled movement of the contractor, exploration crews, equipment, and all parties involved in the exploration activities, to limit the creation of informal pathways, gully erosion and disturbance to surface and sub-surface artifacts such as stone tools and other buried materials etc.